

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 remain pending in the above-referenced application and are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,138,236 to Mirov et al. ("Mirov"). Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, and 14 to recite that the microcomputer is assigned only to the storage arrangement and the storage arrangement is assigned only to the microcomputer so that the assigned microcomputer and the assigned storage arrangement can operate only with each other. Support for this amendment is found in page 4 of the specification. Mirov provides no teaching of this feature. Mirov is directed to authenticating micro-code in a boot PROM. Column 2, lines 12-20. Nothing in Mirov pertains to assigning just a single microcomputer to a storage arrangement and vice versa. Since Mirov is silent on this feature, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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